



U.S. EMBASSY HELSINKI

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018

HELSINKI BOOK FAIR

The United States is proud to be the featured theme country at the [2018 Helsinki Book Fair](#)!

The [2018 Helsinki Book Fair](#) will take place October 25-28 at Helsinki Messukeskus and feature more than 40 international writers, including American authors Jennifer Clement, Patricia Lockwood and Cecilia Samartin, among others.

Jennifer Clement, President of PEN International, will speak about her new book "Gun Love" (2018) and join a panel discussion on October 26. American poet, Patricia Lockwood, who *Rolling Stone* magazine described as "The Poet Laureate of Twitter," and Cecilia Samartin, author of "Beauty for Ashes," will participate in discussions on October 26 & 27. Please consult the full [2018 Helsinki Book Fair program](#) for specific times and locations.

The U.S. Embassy will host an exhibit that will feature the collection "50 States, 50 Books" which will reflect the uniqueness of each and every state in the union. The exhibit's program will also include visiting scholars and panel discussions.

We look forward to seeing you at the [2018 Helsinki Book Fair](#)!



HELSINGIN
KIRJAMESKUS

Message from the Consul

Greetings from the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, Finland.

As we start to enter the holiday season we would like to encourage everyone to check the expiration date on your U.S. passport. Don't wait until the night before your holiday trip to realize your passport has expired. Application instructions for a new U.S. passport are available on the Embassy's [webpage](#).

Don't forget when planning your holiday getaway to consult [travel.state.gov](#) for the most up-to-date travel, safety, and security information for your destination country. The Department of State also publishes a handy [Traveler's Checklist](#) to help you plan for your trip and stay safe while abroad.

Kind regards,

Jeremy R. Wisemiller
Consul, U.S. Embassy Helsinki



Voting Information for the November 6, 2018
U.S. General Election on page 7

October



National Cyber Security
Awareness Month

[staysafeonline.org](#)

You do not have to be a computer expert to understand the basics of cybersecurity. Even small actions can make a huge difference in keeping you safe online.

As cybercrimes like scams, frauds, identity theft, and network breaches continue to increase, it is important to know how to protect yourself in the cyber world.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, and DHS's [Stop.Think.Connect](#)™ campaign and its partners across the country, including the [National Cyber Security Alliance](#), are highlighting the importance of cybersecurity and online safety.

Inside this Issue

Embassy Spotlight	2
Notarial Services	3
Diversity Immigrant Visa Program	3
Traveling With Pets	4
Information for Dual Nationals	5
American Resource Center	6
Check Your ESTA Status	6
Stay Connected	6
Voting Information	7
Selective Service Registration	8
Smart Traveler App	8
Embassy Closures	8

Embassy Spotlight

Ambassador's Visit to the Åland Islands



On September 21, Ambassador and Mrs. Pence visited the ruins of Bomarsund Fortress, a fortification destroyed during the Crimean War. The visit was part of a tour of the Åland Islands led by the Speaker of the Åland Parliament, Mrs. Gun-Mari Lindholm.



Ambassador Pence visited Haga Kungsgård, which featured a John Deere tractor, during his tour of the Åland Harvest Festival.

(Photo: © State Dept.)

Ambassador Pence with Martin Frost, Professor Mikko Saikku and Tom Davis



(Photo: © State Dept.)

The U.S. Embassy hosted retired U.S. Congressmen Tom Davis (R-VA, 1994-2008) and Martin Frost (D-VA, 1979-2005) for a series of programs on U.S. elections.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Frost engaged with young political leaders, academics and researchers, journalists, and parliamentarians during a series of public events held in Helsinki and Turku.

During these events, which included the participation of Ambassador Pence, Mr. Davis and Mr. Frost highlighted many of the major issues of vital interest to Americans in the upcoming mid-term elections.

If you are interested in viewing part of their program, please check out this [You Tube video](#) produced by students of Helsinki Media High School.



(Photo: © State Dept.)

Spike Lee, Ambassador Pence & Jasper Pääkkönen

Ambassador and Mrs. Pence hosted a reception on September 22, in honor of American film director Spike Lee and Finnish actor Jasper Pääkkönen.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Pääkkönen were in Helsinki to attend the screening of the American director's latest film *BlacKkKlansman* at the 31st Helsinki International Film Festival.

Lee's movie, featuring the Finnish actor, won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

American Rock Star Visits the Embassy

On September 28, Ambassador Pence met with Billy Gibbons, the guitarist and lead vocalist of the legendary American rock band ZZ Top.

Gibbons was visiting Finland to attend the Lahti X-TREME car show and Lahti Yankee car show.



(Photo: © State Dept.)

For more images, please see [U.S. Embassy Helsinki's flickr page](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembfinland/) - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembfinland/>

Notarial Services

Notarizing officers at U.S. Embassy Helsinki provide services similar to the functions of a notary public in the United States. Notarial services are provided for U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens whose documents are intended for use in the United States. Each notarial service is by [appointment only](#).

For complete information, including requirements, scheduling, and examples of notarial services provided, please visit the Embassy's [notarial services](#) page & review the following useful tips and requirements.

Notarial Services Tips and Requirements

- The fee per Consular seal is \$50, payable in cash or by credit card.
- Bring valid government issued identification such as a passport, driver's license, or national I.D. card. Your name must be spelled correctly in the document/s and must match the identification presented.
- Please review your document/s carefully and clearly identify all places where the notarizing officer needs to sign prior to your appointment. **DO NOT SIGN THE DOCUMENT IN ADVANCE.**
- You must understand the document you are signing, Embassy staff are not able to explain documents or provide legal advice.
- If two people need to sign the same document, or if a witness is required, the names of all attendees must be submitted in advance. Embassy staff are not able to serve as witnesses.
- Appointments should be made using the Embassy's [online reservation system](#).

Processing Time

Notarial services take approximately 30 - 45 min.

Please Note

U.S. Embassy Helsinki is not authorized to issue apostilles or authenticate U.S. academic credentials. For information on apostilles or the authentication of American academic credentials please review the U.S. Department of State [Authentications and Apostilles](#) website.

Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2020)

The U.S. Department of State is accepting entries for the 2020 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program ([DV-2020](#)). For the DV-2020 program year, 50,000 diversity visas will be made available. Applicants who are selected in the program must meet simple but strict eligibility requirements to qualify for a diversity visa. Eligibility requirements and entry guidance is available on the [DV-2020 information page](#).

The online registration period runs through noon (EST), on **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**. There is no cost to submit an electronic entry form, however, applicants must submit their entry no later than this date to be eligible for the program. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted. Applicants are advised not to wait until the last week of registration to enter, as heavy demand could result in website delays.



Please visit the [Diversity Visa \(DV-2020\) entry instructions page](#) for additional information. A video with step-by-step guidance on submitting a DV-2020 entry is also available [here](#).



United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

When travelling with your pet(s), there may be animal health requirements specific for that destination. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommends that when traveling with pets, you should contact your local veterinarian to assist with the pet travel process as soon as you know your travel dates. Factors to consider may include meeting time frames for obtaining a health certificate, updating vaccinations, diagnostic testing, or administration of medications/ treatments.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service publishes a [Pet Travel Information](#) webpage that provides travelers with important information and guidance about taking your pet from the United States to a foreign country or bringing your pet into the United States from a foreign nation.

Taking your pet *FROM* the United States *TO* a foreign country (Export):

Your destination country may have specific health requirements that must be met before your pet can enter the country. Since export requirements are determined by each country and can change frequently, every time you plan pet travel you will need to verify the export requirements.

From the USDA [Pet Travel Information](#) webpage you are able to select your destination country to view that nation's requirements when bringing a pet from the United States.

Bringing your pet *INTO* the United States *FROM* a foreign country (Import):

Animals entering the U.S. may be subject to regulation by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service as well as other federal agencies. Depending on your destination state of residence, your pet may need to also meet additional health requirements.

From the USDA [Pet Travel Information](#) webpage you are able to select the type of animal you plan to bring into the United States and see the specific health requirements for that animal. You are also able to find updated state specific requirements per animal type.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the pet owner to make sure their pet has met the entry requirements of the destination country. Failure to meet the requirements could result in problems upon arrival in the destination country, including the United States.

Questions regarding entry requirements should be addressed to the USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service, National Import Export Service by phone at (301) 851-3300 or email to VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov.





Information for Dual Nationals of the United States and a Foreign Country



What is Dual Nationality?

The concept of dual nationality means that a person is a national of two countries at the same time. Each country has its own nationality laws based on its own policy. Persons may have dual nationality by automatic operation of different laws rather than by choice. For example, a child born in a foreign country to U.S. national parents may be both a U.S. national and a national of the country of birth. Or, an individual having one nationality at birth may naturalize at a later date in another country and become a dual national.

U.S. law does not mention dual nationality or require a person to choose one nationality or another. A U.S. citizen may naturalize in a foreign state without any risk to his or her U.S. citizenship.

Dual nationals owe allegiance to both the United States and the foreign country. They are required to obey the laws of both countries, and either country has the right to enforce its laws. It is important to note the problems attendant to dual nationality. Claims of other countries upon U.S. dual-nationals often place them in situations where their obligations to one country are in conflict with the laws of the other. In addition, their dual nationality may hamper efforts of the U.S. Government to provide consular protection to them when they are abroad, especially when they are in the country of their second nationality.

Additional information on dual nationality is available on travel.state.gov.



Don't forget that the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same for U.S. citizens, including dual nationals, whether you live in the United States or abroad. Your income is subject to U.S. tax, regardless of where you reside. See the IRS [Taxpayers Living Abroad](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/international) webpage for additional information.

Dual Nationality & Use of Passports



If you are a U.S. citizen you must, by law, **enter and depart the United States on a valid U.S. passport**, regardless of age or possession of foreign passports. The details of this law can be found in [U.S. Code Title 8, Chapter 12, Subchapter II, Part II, § 1185](http://www.uscode.gov) paying particular attention to section (b) which details:

"...it shall be unlawful for any citizen of the United States to depart from or enter, or attempt to depart from or enter, the United States unless he bears a valid United States passport."

U.S. nationals, including dual nationals, must use a U.S. passport to enter and leave the United States. For this reason, all U.S. citizens are ineligible for a visa to the United States, including entering the United States on a foreign passport under the Visa Waiver Program.

Dual nationals may also be required by the foreign country to use its passport to enter and leave that country.



American Resource Center

American Resource Center Grant

The American Resource Center (ARC) Grant 2018 application period is now open!

The American Resource Center's annual scholarship provides a grant to students of Finnish nationality, enrolled at a Finnish university, who are currently working on a Master's Thesis on a United States related topic. The ARC welcomes applications from all fields of study.

The grant is intended to help students complete their Master's Thesis. To apply, please complete the [application form](#) and send/e-mail it to the ARC along with the required attachments. The application deadline is **November 30, 2018**. Please find [Instructions on how to apply](#) at the ARC's web page [Download the flyer](#) in Finnish.

AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER

AT THE HELSINKI UNIVERSITY KAISA LIBRARY
Fabianinkatu 30, 2nd floor

Find us at



AmericanResourceCenter



ARCHelsinki



ARCHelsinki



Not sure how long your ESTA is valid?

Unless revoked, travel authorization is valid for two years from the date of authorization, or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. Your ESTA Authorization Confirmation displays your travel authorization expiration date. To check your ESTA status if you did not save your confirmation go to the [ESTA website](#) (esta.cbp.dhs.gov) and select "[Check Existing Application](#)."

If you have already submitted an ESTA application for one or more individuals, you will be able to:



- ⇒ Check Your ESTA Status
- ⇒ Review a Completed ESTA Application
- ⇒ Update an Unpaid or Approved Application
- ⇒ Submit Payment or View Payment Receipt

Stay Connected with
U.S. Embassy
Helsinki



[FACEBOOK](#)

<http://www.facebook.com/finland.usembassy>



[TWITTER](#)

<http://twitter.com/usembfinland>



[YOUTUBE](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/USEmbassyHelsinki>



[INSTAGRAM](#)

https://www.instagram.com/u.s._embassy_helsinki/



[FLICKR](#)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembfinland/>

Questions?
Comments?

HelsinkiACS@state.gov



U.S. General Election - Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Your Vote Counts! Did you know that many U.S. elections for House and Senate seats have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters? All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

What to do if you do not receive your requested State absentee ballot

If you requested your absentee ballot and have not received it from your State at least 30 days before the election, you can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The FWAB is an emergency backup ballot. This backup ballot can be completed using the [FWAB online assistant](#), or filling out the [PDF form](#). The online assistant will guide you through the process of completing the form. Once you complete the form, you will be able to download and print the PDF package to sign and send to your election office. This PDF package even includes a pre-addressed and postage-paid label so you don't have to worry about finding stamps! Ballots may be mailed from U.S. Embassy Helsinki.

Researching the Candidates and Issues:

Online Resources. Check out the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues are widely available and easy to obtain online.

You can also read national and hometown newspapers online, or search the internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov).

Questions about voting from overseas?
Email: VoteHELSINKI@state.gov



Voting From Abroad

1. Request Your Ballot: Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). *You must complete a new FPCA after January 1, 2018, to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2018 elections.* The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all **elections for federal offices** including primaries and special elections during the calendar year. The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all states and territories.

You can complete the FPCA **online** at www.FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask questions specific to your state. We encourage you to request electronic delivery of your ballots (email, internet download, or fax, depending on state). Include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. Return the FPCA per instructions on the website. FVAP.gov will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature. If you must return a paper version, please see below for mailing options.

2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot: States are required to send ballots 45 days before a regular federal election and generally send out ballots 30 days before primary elections. Registration and ballot delivery may be confirmed online for most states.

3. Return Your Completed Ballot: Some states allow you to return your completed ballot by email or fax. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can use international mail, a courier service such as FedEx or DHL, or you may also drop off completed voting materials during regular business hours at U.S. Embassy/Helsinki. Place your materials in a postage paid return envelope (available under "Downloadable Election Materials" on the FVAP homepage) or in an envelope bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and address it to the relevant local election officials.

4. Email to fax service by FVAP: The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will provide an email-to-fax conversion service for voters who have difficulty sending election materials to States that do not accept emailed documents. Get more information [here](#).

United States Selective Service System Registration



Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male alien residents, who are age 18 through 25, are required to register with the Selective Service. **Dual nationals** of the United States and another country are required to register, regardless of where they live, because they are U.S. nationals. The easiest and fastest way to register with the Selective Service is online through the [Selective Service System](http://www.sss.gov) website at www.sss.gov.

Registration is a way our government maintains a list of names of men from which to draw in case of a national emergency requiring rapid expansion of our Armed Forces. By registering all young men, the Selective Service ensures that a future draft will be fair and equitable.

It's important to know that although one is registered with the Selective Service, they will not automatically be inducted into the military. In a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in sequence determined by a random lottery number and year of birth. Then, they would be examined for mental, physical and moral fitness by the military before being deferred or exempted from military service or inducted into the Armed Forces.

For specific information on the Selective Service System and how to register, please visit www.sss.gov.

Take us with you!
New Travel Advisories and Alerts to help U.S. citizens assess the risk of travel for each destination. Go to travel.state.gov/destination for more information.

Register with U.S. Embassy Helsinki
Enroll in STEP at step.state.gov



**Smart
Traveler
Enrollment
Program**

Embassy Holiday Closures

U.S. Embassy Helsinki will be closed in observance of the following Finnish and U.S. holidays:

Monday, November 12, 2018	Veterans' Day	(U.S. Holiday)
Thursday, November 22, 2018	Thanksgiving	(U.S. Holiday)
Thursday, December 6, 2018	Finnish Independence Day	(Finnish Holiday)
Monday, December 24, 2018	Christmas Eve	(Finnish Holiday)
Tuesday, December 25, 2018	Christmas Day	(U.S. and Finnish Holiday)
Wednesday, December 26, 2018	Second Christmas Day	(Finnish Holiday)

U.S. Embassy Helsinki
American Citizen Services
Itäinen Puistotie 14 B

Email: HelsinkiACS@state.gov
Web: <http://fi.usembassy.gov>
<http://travel.state.gov>